

THE NUR AFSHAN

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Editorial Notes.

We have received from the Panjáb Economical Press, Lahore, for review, a book in Gurmukhī entitled *Damb Vidāran* (ਦੰਡ ਵਿਦਾਰਨ) by the late Bhāī Ditt Singh, Editor of the *Khālā Akhbār*. The book is a review and refutation of the *Satyāth Prākāsh* published in 1875 by Swāmī Dayā Nand Saraswatī, founder of the *Aryā Samāj*. The author takes up in succession the several rites and practices enjoined on the adherents of this sect, as set forth by its founder in this first edition of his book; as, for instance, the method of performing the rites known as *dchmān*, *agnihotr*, *tarpan*, *bolī* &c., and shows them to be both useless for the end they are supposed to serve, and impracticable; in fact that a man, who undertook to observe in detail all the minute rules laid down, would have little time left for the practical duties of life.

The doctrine of *nyog*, which is a blot not only on the system of the *Dayānandis*, but also on that of the *Hindus* generally, is explained in full by quotations from the Swāmī sāhib's book, and its immoral character exposed. To our minds this doctrine alone ought to be sufficient for ever to condemn this new teacher and his religious system in the estimation of all right thinking men. Are the numerous school boys and college bred

young men, who call themselves *Aryas* and join in processions and carry banners and deliver orations on the occasion of the annual celebrations of *Samāj*, aware that their leader not only sanctioned this practice but laid down minute rules for its observance? For their own sakes we hope they are not, but if so the sooner they make themselves acquainted with his real teachings the better. This they can do by studying the first edition of the *Satyāth Prākāsh*, and to those of them who know Gurmukhī we would recommend also a perusal of the *Damb Vidāran*.

We regret that the writer did not write his criticism in a more conciliatory spirit. If his object was to lead men out of the path of error and to guide them to the truth he would have been more likely to accomplish his purpose had he made less frequent use of ridicule as a weapon of attack and confined himself more to serious argument. Unfortunately he himself needed such guidance as is shown by the few references to Christianity and the Bible, which his book contains.

It is our earnest wish that our *Arya* brethren, putting aside all prejudices would honestly compare the teaching of Swāmī Dayā Nand with those of the Lord Jesus Christ. Were they to do so, those among them who are sincere seekers for the truth would be deeply struck by the contrast.

The copious showers of rain have brought gladness to millions of peo-

ple. How wonderful the providence of God. "Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God; who covereth the heavens with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry. He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: He taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy."

It is lamentable to see the perennial display of ignorance, which is afforded to intelligent readers of the *Arya Patrika*. At the very outset of an article on 'Modern science and the Veda' we read the following: "The nation has gained ground among Christian countries that science, if not wholly antagonistic to, is something opposed to the interests of religion. The progress of scientific discovery is not viewed with favour by the Church, and reasoning and argument based on scientific ground, is looked upon as an attempt to subvert the authority of religion "&c" Nothing can be more ridiculous than a statement like this when applied to the Protestant Christian Churches of to-day. These churches have been the promoters of modern science. Their colleges and universities are the leaders in all scientific investigation. It is true that many men who endeavoured to array science against Christianity, but every branch

of scientific discovery, when thoroughly established only serves to illustrate the facts of the Christian scriptures. On the contrary, the most advanced scientists of the day have learned reverence for Bible thought. The thought of an all-pervading and omnipresent Divinity as the author and sustainer of the universe best accounts for the phenomena of nature whose mysteries they seek to explain. Granting a Living God and all the mysterious phenomena of the Bible, as seen in its miracles, are easily accepted although they may not be comprehended. The monism of Swami Vivekanand will never satisfy a truly scientific mind. Its attraction to some western minds is due solely to ignorance. When such come to understand the fundamentals of that philosophy they also come to see its absurdity. The idea of "One without a second" contradicts self-consciousness and the testimony of the senses, which are fundamental to all scientific investigation.

If the *Arya Patrika* is prepared to accept the philosophy of the Vedant School, he had better retreat to the precincts of Orthodox Hinduism which will enable him with perfect constancy to believe two contradictory statements at one and the same time.

Current Thought & Incident.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN ACTION.

In his "Centennial Survey of Foreign Missions," Dr. James S. Dennis has massed the achievements and results of Evangelical Missions in all lands at the close of the nineteenth century. It is a marvelous compendium of information. As a book of reference, to settle any possible question about missionary activity of every sort throughout the world, it stands alone. No missionary library of any standing can be without it. Some figures gleaned from it will be of interest. The total annual contributions to foreign missions are \$19,598,823, of which \$9,459,562, comes from Great Britain and Ireland, and \$6,616,096, from America. The total number of foreign missionaries, including wives, is 18,164, of these, 6027 are ordained missionaries, 711 are physicians, 3478 are lay male missionaries, 3496 are unmarried ladies and 4262 are wives of missionaries. There is a total of 78,350 native helpers, of whom 4076 are ordained. There are 14,221 organized churches, with 1,531,889 communicants, of whom, 111,179 were added during the

last year. The total native Christian communities, aggregate 4,514,592, and their annual contributions are \$1,550,476.

Education.

There are 94 Christian colleges in the mission field, with 35,539 students in attendance; 375 theological and training schools, with 11,965 students; 879 Boarding and High schools, and Seminaries, with 85,091 pupils; 179 Industrial Training Institutions and classes, with 9,074 in attendance; 67 Medical schools, and schools for nurses, with 651 in attendance; 122 Kindergartens, with 4,701 pupils; 18,742 elementary or village day schools, with 904,442 pupils,—making a grand total of 20,458 schools of all grades, with 1,061,466 in attendance.

Literary Work.

Number of languages or dialects into which the entire Bible has been translated by missionaries, 99. Number of additional languages or dialects into which the New Testament has been translated by missionaries, 121. Number of additional languages or dialects into which portions only of the Bible have been translated by missionaries, 236. Total, 456. Of this vast number, 446 were issued during the nineteenth century, only 10 translations having been made by missionaries before that date.

The reported distribution of complete Bibles for one year is 94,535, Testaments 246,491, Portions, 2,888,633, a total of 3,286,834. About 10,000,000 tracts are circulated annually in mission lands by the Religious Tract Society and its auxiliaries. There are also 159 Mission Publishing Houses and Printing Presses, issuing annually about 10,800,927 copies, with 381,166,106 pages of Christian literature. 379 Magazines and papers are published in mission fields, with a circulation of 250,809.

Medical Work.

There are 379 Hospitals, with 85,169 inpatients, 783 Dispensaries, with 2,347,780 Individual Patients, and 6,442,427 treatments, in one year.

These figures speak for themselves. The Kingdom of God is in action throughout the earth. May the day of its complete coming be hastened. It is given to each Christian to share in bringing about this final, glorious consummation.

YOUNG MEN OF INDIA.

READING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

THOMAS A' KEMPIS.

Truth, not eloquence, is to be sought for in Holy Scripture.

Each part of the Scripture is to be read with the same Spirit wherewith it was written.

We should rather search after profit in the Scriptures, than after subtle arguments.

We ought to read plain and devout books as willingly as those high and profound.

Let not the authority of the writer be a stumbling-block, whether he be of great or of small learning; but let the love of pure truth draw thee to read. Enquire not who spoke this or that, but mark what is spoken.

Men pass away, but the truth of the Lord remaineth for ever. God speaks unto us in sundry ways without respect of persons.

Our own curiosity often hindereth us in reading of the Scriptures, when we will examine and discuss that which we should rather pass over without more ado.

If thou desire to profit, read with humility, simplicity, and faithfulness; nor ever desire the repute of learning.

Enquire willingly, and hear with silence the words of holy men. Let not the parables of the Elders displease thee, for they are not given without cause.

EMBRYO DRUNKARDS.

If the men who are now only "tipplers," but will one day be "drunkards," realized what they are coming to, there would be such a revulsion against intoxicants as has never been known. It is the insidious, gradual, unrecognized stealing of a man's character that is the most terrible thing about drink. When the real contest comes, and the struggle to stop it begins, then its deadening and undermining influence is realized, but the man is already in a bondage he cannot break. The article on another page, "Whiskey Leads the Horde," is too true to be open to serious question. How Christian men, and even Christian women, can help on this monstrous evil by an example of using intoxicants as a beverage, however temperately, is beyond the comprehension of some of us who are more old-fashioned. It is safe to say that no real Christian would do it if he knew his example would be the ruin of even one of his fellow-men. No one who takes the risk can be sure that his influence will not lead scores to ruin.

Telegrams.

London, Sept. 11.

Botha urged that the grant of three millions was inadequate, and asked that assistance be given to widows and orphans. Mr. Chamberlain replied: "We have done more than could be expected of us, and done all we can afford to do."

An understanding has been reached for the disarmament of natives in the Zoutpansberg district of the Transvaal.

London, Sept. 11.

Numbers of Russian troops and immigrants are arriving in Manchuria. M. Lessar has advised the Russian commander to expel British employs in the Chinese Customs sent to resume charge of the postal service.

Calcutta, Sept. 12.

London, Sept. 10.—The admiral commanding the French squadron in the West Indies reports that the Island of Bermeja in the southern portion of the Gulf of Mexico has suddenly disappeared, doubtless as the result of volcanic action. Volcanoes in Mexico, Yucatan and Guatemala are very active at the present time.

London, Sept. 12.

The correspondent of the *Standard* reports that Lord Roberts has made a most favourable impression on the officers of the German Army.—*Englishman Special*.

London, Sept. 11.

Cholera in Egypt is increasing. There were 1,350 new cases yesterday, and 20,328 cases and 16,209 deaths since the 15th July.

Allahabad, Sept. 12.

It is definitely decided that Lord Kitchener will act as Umpire-in-Chief at the Delhi manoeuvres.

London, Sept. 12.

The Boer Generals had a civic reception at Amsterdam yesterday. De Wet and Botha announced that they had come to seek help for widows and orphans which they did not believe would be forthcoming in England.

London, Sept. 12.

The *Times* Constantinople correspondent says that the Porte has granted an exequatur for the Russian Consul at Mitrovitz which it was mentioned on the 8th instant as disinclined to grant. It has also promised protection against Albanians.

London, Sept. 12.

A telegram from Constantinople states that three vessels were captured in the *Lapwing* affair, which has produced a considerable impression as testifying to the value of the British police service.

Allahabad, Sept. 12.

An accident of an appalling character occurred on the north-west section of the Madras Railway at 3 o'clock this morning between 196 and 205 miles from Madras. The mail train, which left Madras yesterday at 6.45 p. m. for Bombay, ran into a big breach caused by heavy rain in that locality in the early part of night. The train was exceptionally heavy and carried English mails and a number of passengers. The officers of the Madras Railway left by special train at 11 a. m. for the scene of the accident.

London, Sept. 13.

The natives also participate in the two millions assigned to assist those who suffered in the war.

Lord Milner has started on a tour through the western Transvaal in order to gain local knowledge of the progress of the settlement. He afterwards visits other regions.

Calcutta, Sept. 15.

Numerous reports are afloat regarding divisions in the Boer camp. The Brussels correspondents both of the *Standard* and *Daily Telegraph* agree in stating that the failure of the Generals' mission in London has led to a complete rupture between them and the irreconcilables. The Generals attribute their failure to the violent attitude taken up by Mr. Reitz and to the defiant language of the Kruger clique.—*Englishman Special*.

London, Sept. 13.

The German manoeuvres are ended. The Kaiser actively participated. He led 9,000 cavalry thirty miles yesterday, heading the final charge and routing the enemy. The infantry observed South American methods of attack.

Lord Roberts and party followed closely throughout. They bade farewell to the Emperor on the field and returned to London.

London, Sept. 14.

American opinion is enormously increasing in favour of Mr. Roosevelt's re nomination for the Presidency, the latest Republican state convention enthusiastically adopting him.

London, Sept. 14.

General French assumes command at Aldershot tomorrow. An elaborate reception is being prepared.

London, Sept. 13.

The result of the late reign on the harvest in England is the worst since 1860. A considerable rise in the price of wheat is expected.

London, Sept. 12.

The father of Lieutenant Corry of the Bombay Sappers, who recently died in India, has given, to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home Fund Rupees. 10,000 to the Lucknow Soldiers Home in memory of his son.

London, Sept. 14.

The British team with a score of 1,459 has won the Falwa trophy in the international rifle contest at Ottawa. America scored 1,447, and Canada 1,372 points.

London, Sept. 14.

The Tsar and Grand Dukes have arrived at Kursk to attend the manoeuvres. The Shah has left Paris to attend the Russian manoeuvres.

London, Sept. 15.

A despatch from a Saigon states that 300 British troops have occupied the Malay principality of Kelantan at the request of the Sultan.

London, Sept. 15.

General French has arrived at Aldershot. He was received by the local authorities and presented with an address of welcome. He had an enthusiastic reception in the town and camp.

London, Sept. 15.

The situation in Colombia is serious. The revolutionists are triumphing everywhere, and are approaching Panama and Colon. United States warships have started in order to protest against crossing the Isthmus.

London, Sept. 15.

A result of conferences which have been held between the Boer Generals and Boer delegates is that the irreconcilables are to be asked to moderate their anti-British propaganda.

Madras, Sept. 16.

The latest official information regarding the number of deaths is that the number of bodies recovered is 55. Of these, 10 were Europeans and Eurasians and 45 natives.

London, Sept. 16.

The Boer Generals are expected in Berlin

next week. The pan-Germans are making great preparations and official quarters are alarmed at the prospect of an Anglophobe demonstration. Semi-official journals are dwelling strongly on the impolicy of such an attitude.

Calcutta, Sept. 17.

A Laffan telegram from Amsterdam alleges that the differences between the Boer ex-Generals and the Krugerite party which have been brewing for some time have now definitely come to a head. There has, in fact, been a complete rupture between the two factions, and it is believed the result will be to induce the Generals to return home at once.

The action of the Pan German League in inviting the Generals to Berlin has thrown the German officials into amusing consternation. The Berlin correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that the Generals are to be asked to address a series of meetings, and there is a strong dread of the possible consequences in the shape of friction between Germany and Great Britain.—*Englishman Special*.

London, Sept. 16.

The Hague Arbitration Court has begun hearing. The first case in dispute is between Mexico and the United States regarding compensation for seizure of a California church property for the needs of the Mexican Government prior to annexation by the United States.

London, Sept. 16.

The Crown Prince of Siam is visiting the Danish court.

London, Sept. 17.

London, Sept. 17.

Martial law has been withdrawn in the Cape, and the Peace Preservation Act proclaimed.

Besides glanders, rinderpest is causing increasing anxiety in South Africa. It is continually appearing in fresh districts.

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